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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Deputy Director (Administration)      DATE: 9 February 1951

FROM : Special Assistant to Deputy Director (Administration)

SUBJECT: Final Open Hearing by House Public Works Subcommittee on Dispersal of Federal Land

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1. The House Subcommittee on dispersal held its final open hearing on Thursday, 8 February 1951.

2. In the morning a closed executive session was held at which representatives of the Atomic Energy Commission, Air Force, Bureau of the Budget, and the National Security Resources Board testified. The principal witness in the afternoon was Representative Smith of Virginia.

3. Most of the testimony in the afternoon was merely a reiteration of previous testimony before the House or Senate Subcommittees. Of particular importance however to this agency was the testimony of Representative Smith who recommended that the bill be amended to provide that tracts of land already owned by the Federal Government be used wherever possible in lieu of the acquisition of additional sites. In support of his contention Representative Smith called the committee's attention to the numerous tracts of land in Virginia under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government and in particular the Prince William Forest Tract which he said is not being used by the Government at all.

*informal Jones  
has requested adv.  
to  
expedite action on  
our behalf &  
leave Prince  
William Forest.*

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4. The committee was impressed by Representative Smith's testimony to the extent that they requested the representative of General Services Administration to provide the committee a chart of the outlying area of Washington on which should be indicated the tracts of land presently owned by the Federal Government. Mr. Augur of GSA advised that property owned or occupied by this agency will not be reflected on this chart.

5. Representatives of the agencies concerned with the bill feel that the Public Works Committee of the House will act favorably on it and it will probably be "reported out" to the House.

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